

ABSTRACT

Apparatus and methods, including computer program products, for providing a network-accessible queue. The queue is stored on a network-accessible file system having a locking mechanism providing strictly-enforced, network-wide file locking. The data structures of the queue are stored in the file system. The file system is preferably implemented on a network accessible RAID array storage device providing a native CIFS file system for storing queue entries received over a network from sender clients and for delivery of such queue entries to receiver clients. Synchronization is implemented using file locks enforced by the file system, so there is no need for a master synchronization process. Notification of the availability of queue entries to receiver clients is also done by a decentralized process.